CASTLE ROCK LAKE



Castle Rock Lake is part of the Wisconsin River flowage, located between Adams and Juneau counties in Central Wisconsin. It is a man-made lake of about 14,000 acres that opened in the early 1950s and is the fifth largest lake in Wisconsin. Its maximum depth is 36 feet. The dam is operated by the Wisconsin Power Company and generates electricity. Buckhorn State Park is located on the west side of Castle Rock Lake. There are also Adams and Juneau County parks on the lake.



PETENWELL LAKE

Petenwell Lake is the second largest lake in Wisconsin, located on the Wisconsin River Flowage in central Wisconsin. It is a man-made lake of 23,040 surface acres and a maximum depth of 48 feet. The dam on the lake is owned by the Wisconsin Power Company and is used to generate electricity. There are a number of county parks located on both sides of the lake.

Many businesses and residences are along the shore. There are several lake subdivision associations connected with both Castle Rock and Petenwell Lakes, as well as the Petenwell-Castle Rock Property Owners Association.

The lakes have long been plagued with heavy algal blooms, including bluegreen (cyanobacteria) blooms, attributed mostly to industrial and agricultural runoff. PCBs, dioxins and mercury are known in its sediments.

Many people from Petenwell and Castle Rock Lake are participating in a multi-year study aimed at assessing the water health and developing a plan to reduce the pollution problems. The project is being spearheaded by the Petenwell Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS). Other organizations involved include various lake associations on both lakes, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Army Corps of Engineers, Wisconsin River Alliance, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Adams County Land & Water Conservation Department, and Juneau County Land & Water Conservation Department.

Information available:

Map of Sample Sites on Castle Rock Lake Map of Sample Sites on Petenwell Lake Latest Results of Sampling by Citizen Volunteers



